

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 21 January 2004

Division: Growth Management

Bulk Item: Yes X No

Department: Marine Resources

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Approval to expend up to \$8,000 of Boating Improvement Funds (BIF) to assist Lignum Vitae Submerged Lands Management Area in completing the establishment of a boat grounding assessment database.

ITEM BACKGROUND:

Over the past 10 years, Lignum Vitae has worked to reduce the number of boat groundings within its boundaries using a combination of tools, including education, Aids to Navigation and regulatory markers, and enforcement. The County assisted Lignum Vitae in some of their early efforts by producing the first baseline aerial photography for the area. Lignum Vitae has repeated these aerial photography over flights since. Monroe County and the Department of Marine Resources have used Aids to Navigation as a principal means to assist the public in getting to where they need to go on the water by providing visual direction to boat traffic through the deepest channels. Key in this effort is to try to identify how well our efforts are working. Lignum Vitae is a long term test case and when information can be made available from that effort we will be better able to assess how to place and use Aids to Navigation to keep boaters out of shallow water areas. The Department supports this minimal expenditure of BIF funds. The Marine and Port Advisory Committee has reviewed this proposal as well.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

None

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

NA

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval

TOTAL COST: \$15,000

BUDGETED: Yes No X

COST TO COUNTY: up to \$8,000

SOURCE OF FUNDS: BIF - CC 62608

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No X AMOUNT Per Month Year

APPROVED BY: County Atty NA OMB/Purchasing NA Risk Management NA

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL: Timothy McGarry
Timothy McGarry, Director of Growth Management

DOCUMENTATION: Included X To Follow Not Required

DISPOSITION:

AGENDA ITEM NO.: I 10



Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush
Governor

Bureau of Parks District 5
13798 Southeast Federal Highway
Hobe Sound, Florida 33455

David B. Struhs
Secretary

September 30, 2003

George Garrett, Marine Resources Director
Monroe County
2798 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050

RE: LV Boat Grounding Data Analysis

Dear George,

I hope to interest Monroe County in a boating improvement project that is directly supportive of recent County efforts to manage its nearshore waters. As you know, we at the Lignumvitae Submerged Land Management Area (LKMA) have been implementing a boat grounding damage prevention and enforcement program for several years, most intensively since 1992. With the recently increased focus on boat groundings at the federal, state and local levels, LKMA is very interested in making the information in their boat grounding database useful to a variety of groups. The database contains detailed information on everything from grounding location to boater profiles and assessed damage for hundreds of individual cases. An organized summary and analysis of this data could be useful for many applications including channel marking and no-motor zoning activities that the County is now engaged in.

The database is in a Microsoft Access spreadsheet format and has been entered by various staff over the years. To make the data useful, we must normalize and analyze it. We would eventually like the database to be linked to our geographic information system. We also have the goal of making our database consistent with that being used for groundings within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) so that a larger database can be shared by all users.

We have scoped out the tasks needed to normalize the database, create a consistent entry system and produce query-based trend results from the data. This constitutes Phase I and Phase II of the scope presented below. We eventually envision the MS Access database being linked directly to our ArcView maps (Phases III and IV) so that the raw data and trend data is automatically updated as new groundings are entered. These end-products would be made available to all marine resource managers, including your office.

"More Protection, Less Process"

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Phase I – Data Needs

- Task 1. Examine data and coordinate with staff on the past methods and context of entry.
- Task 2. List and organize questions to be answered about the data. Coordinate with key individuals to obtain questions (LKMA staff, FKNMS staff, Monroe County Marine Resources staff).
- Task 3. Determine methods of data analysis within and outside MS Access.
- Task 4. Normalize data and add necessary fields for MS Access analysis.

Phase II – MS Access Data Analysis and Reporting

- Task 1. Build MS Access queries.
- Task 2. Generate data and first draft report (results and discussion).

Phase III – Data Analysis Outside MS Access

- Task 1. Finalize methods of data analysis outside MS Access.
- Task 2. Reformat data to perform non-Access analysis.
- Task 3. Generate data and incorporate into final report.

Phase IV – Future Use by Staff

- Task 1. Set up instructions for consistent future data entry and query runs.
- Task 2. Link data to ArcView GIS maps and set up for future entry.

We anticipate the cost of Phases I and II to be a maximum of \$15,000. We will be able to contribute \$7,000 towards this project and are requesting a total of \$8,000 from Monroe County Boating Improvement Funds. A preliminary draft report will be generated at the end of Phase II with the query-based trend analysis of 10+ years of grounding data. We hope that this product will be useful for managers, enforcement personnel, and the public.

Once you've had a chance to look this over, let's discuss it. In the meantime, if you need any further details on the project, let me know. Thanks for the opportunity to present this proposal!

Sincerely,



Pat Wells

cc: George Jones
Billy Causey
Sean Meehan
Kevin Kirsch
Pat McNeese